

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, VN

SUBJ: TURKISH PRESS REACTION TO SAIGON SURRENDER

1. THE TURKISH MEDIA GAVE HEAVY PLAY THURSDAY AND FRIDAY (MAY 1-2) TO DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH VIETNAM, INCLUDING THE EVACUATION OF AMERICAN AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE CITIZENS AND THE OCCUPATION OF SAIGON BY COMMUNIST FORCES. STORIES DEPENDED EXCLUSIVELY ON WESTERN NEWS AGENCY REPORTS.

2. MOST EDITORIAL REACTION SO FAR HAS APPEARED IN THE LEFT-OF-CENTER PRESS AND WAS CONSISTENT WITH EARLIER POSITIONS ON THE WAR. THUS, ALI SIRMEN IN LEFT-LIBERAL CUMHURIYET AND MUMTAZ SOYSAL IN LIBERAL MILLIYET SAW THE DEFEAT OF THE SAIGON GOVERNMENT AS A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF A NATIONAL LIBERATION STRUGGLE AGAINST FOREIGN DOMINATION. MILLIYET EDITOR ABDI IPEKCI IN A COMMENTARY FRIDAY DECLARED THAT IT IS TOO EARLY TO SAY WHAT THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH VIETNAM CAN EXPECT AS A RESULT OF THE VICTORY OF THE COMMUNISTS, BUT THAT THE AMERICAN INVOLVEMENT HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY BAD IN ITS EFFECTS. NOT ONLY HAD IT COST AMERICAN

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LIVES AND MONEY, BUT IT HAD PROBABLY SHARPENED IDEOLOGICAL

DIVISIONS AND THE SAVAGERY OF THE FIGHTING, ACCORDING TO
IPEKCI.

3. WRITING IN PRO-RPP BARIS UNDER THE HEADLINE "THE U.S.
HAS BEEN DEFEATED", EDITOR YASAR AYSEV PREDICTED THAT
SOUTHEAST ASIA WILL BECOME AN ARENA OF SINO-SOVIET
COMPETITION NOW THAT AMERICA HAS WITHDRAWN FROM THE AREA. HE
SAID THAT SUCH COMPETITION COULD REPRESENT A CONTINUED THREAT
TO THE INDEPENDENCE OF THE STATES THERE.

4. IN COMMENTARY ON THE RIGHT OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM,
CONSERVATIVE TERCUMAN'S COLUMNIST ZAFER ATAY SAID THURSDAY
THAT THE COLLAPSE OF SOUTH VIETNAM REPRESENTED THE START OF
AMERICAN WITHDRAWAL FROM ASIA. THE COMMUNIST VICTORY HAS
CREATED A NEW BALANCE IN WHICH STATES FROM INDIA TO AUSTRALIA
WILL BE ENDANGERED, HE SAID.
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